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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 46//

TO ADAMS/BARRIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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RH51636 25X1

TOHAK 46

AUGUST 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

25X1

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

MORI/CDF per C02398070

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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THE WASHINGTON STAR NEWS

THE LAST OF THREE ARTICLES BY RICHARD DUDMAN ON YOU APPEARS IN THE STAR. THIS ARTICLE DISCUSSES YOUR ROLE IN INDOCHINA POLICIES. FULL TEXT BEING SENT SEPERATELY [REDACTED]

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HENRY S. BRADSHAW REPORTS THAT BEYOND THE CURRENT MANEUVERINGS FOR POWER IN PORTUGAL THE MAJOR PROBLEMS AND BASIC POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH COULD KEEP THIS COUNTRY IN ENERVATING UNCERTAINTY OR EVEN DESTRUCTIVE TUMULT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE IMMEDIATE STRUGGLE.

ARTHUR BURNS SAYS GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT RESULT IN AN EVENTUAL 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE COST OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE CBS TELEVISION PROGRAM, "FACE THE NATION."

DAVID A. ANDELMAN REPORTS FROM BANGKOK THAT THE VOICE OF PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA SOUNDED STRONG AND AUTHORITATIVE IN A BRIEF TELEPHONE INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, WITHIN HOURS OF THE REOPENING OF COMMUNICATION WITH VIENTIANE WHICH HAD BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR 24 HOURS. THE PREMIER GAVE ASSURANCES THAT RULING COALITION OF PRO-COMMUNIST PATHET LAO FORCES, RIGHTISTS AND NEUTRALISTS REMAINED INTACT DESPITE THE WEEKEND TAKEOVER BY THE PATHET LAO OF THE CAPITAL AND ITS PROVINCIAL ENVIRONS.

THE LEAD EDITORIAL SAYS THE GRADUAL PACE OF U.S.-CUBAN RAPPROACHMENT IS QUICKENING AND IT IS HIGH TIME FOR MORE BILATERAL CONCILIATORY GESTURES BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT WILL HELP BURY THE MACHETE. IT IS ALMOST AS IF FIDEL CASTRO AND YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO THE RHYTHM OF TAKING TURNS AT MOVES THAT

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WILL EASE THE TENSIONS OF 15 YEARS. IT IS ALMOST SILLY FOR HAVANA AND WASHINGTON TO BE TAKING SO MUCH TIME TO PUT THE OFFICIAL STAMP ON A HISTORIC INEVITABILITY. THERE ARE STUMBLING BLOCKS TO TOTAL RAPPROACHMENT, TO BE SURE, BUT THE STAR BELIEVES IT IS IN THE SELF-INTEREST OF THE U.S. TO RESTORE TRADE AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA WITHOUT DELAY.

C. L. SULZBERGER WRITES THAT LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ISRAELIS DISAGREE SHARPLY ABOUT THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME. AMONG THOSE HE ASKED TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THIS REGION 20 YEARS HENCE WERE PREMIER RABIN, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, AND GENERAL ARIEL SHARON. RABIN THOUGHT PEACE WOULD PREVAIL BUT THAT IN TWO DECADES "INSTABILITY AND HATRED" MIGHT STILL BE EVIDENT IN THE AREA. HE HOPED, NEVERTHELESS, FOR SOME KIND OF "CONFEDERATION" BETWEEN ARAB-DOMINATED JORDAN AND JEWISH-DOMINATED ISRAEL BY THEN, WITH JOINT CONDOMINIUM OVER THE WEST BANK. SHARON IS FAR MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN EITHER THE PREMIER OR DEFENSE MINISTER. HE FORESEES WAR AGAIN -- AND MUCH SOONER THAN FIVE YEARS FROM NOW. BUT HE ALSO FORESEES ANOTHER ISRAELI VICTORY AND A VAGUE SCHEME OF A JEWISH-ARAB PALESTINIAN CONFEDERATION SIMILAR TO RABIN'S CONJECTURES. BY FAR THE MOST OPTIMISTIC VISION WAS THAT OF PERES. HE SAID: "I BELIEVE THAT IN TWO DECADES WE MAY HAVE A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TYPE OF SITUATION. EACH MEMBER WOULD KEEP ITS OWN IDENTITY BUT THERE WOULD BE OPEN FRONTIERS, JOINT VENTURES, AND MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS.

CHARLES BARTLETT REPORTS THAT IN THE EXUBERANCE OF HIS ROLE AS HOST TO THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT LAST WEEK, FIDEL CASTRO WAS MOVED TO COMPARE CUBA'S COMMUNIST PARTY WITH MEXICO'S PERVASIVE POLITICAL APPARATUS, THE PARTY OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION. MEXICO'S PRI AND CUBA'S CP HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. BUT THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION IS 50 YEARS OLDER THAN CUBA'S, AND THE PRI'S FERVOR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY TIME AND PRESSURES INTO A POLITICAL AMALGAM. MEXICO IS NOT CUBA OR PORTUGAL. THE PRI HAS CLEARLY TRIED TO RUN THE RACE AGAINST TIME, STRUGGLED TO MEET ASPIRATIONS INSTEAD OF CRUSHING THEM. THE DANGER IS A TRADITION OF INSENSITIVITY IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND THE WEALTHY CLASSES. IT WOULD LEAD THE PRI INTO TAKING THE WRONG TURN AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE.

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